

Curtis Tavern
Granville, Massachusetts

Hampden Co

HABS No. MASS-221

HABS
MASS.

7- GRANV

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

Addendum to
Curtis Tavern
State Route 57
Granville
Hampden County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-221

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM TO
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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addressed as:
CURTIS TAVERN

HABS
MASS
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1-

HABS No. MA-221

Location: State Route 57, Granville, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

Significance: One of five structures built in the Granville area by a skilled craftsman; though his name is unrecorded, this structure attests to his impact on the built landscape of New England.

Description: The Curtis Tavern is a two story, frame structure, dominated visually by a central chimney. The exterior wall fabric is clapboard. The front elevation is five bays, though four giant order pilasters give it a tripartite appearance overall. In the center bay, paired pilasters flank the entrance door; between the pilasters are sidelights. The four pilasters support a full entablature. Above each first floor window is a cornice with dentils. Beneath the roof cornice hangs carved rope molding. The east and west fenestration is asymmetrical.

The present carved entablature, above the door, is not original to this house but is of the period. It was taken from a structure in Westfield. Behind the house, a shed was added, altering the south facade.

History: Defined as a cluster of buildings at cross roads of Granville's main thoroughfares, Middle Parish flourished from the late eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. Its arrival is generally perceived as 1778 when the Second Church of Christ Congregational was constructed. Need for its own ecclesiastical structure signified a thriving community. Commonly known as West Granville, building construction boomed between 1780 and 1840.

Aaron Curtis built the "Curtis Tavern" in 1765 as his residence. Curtis served in the Revolutionary War. Once in Granville, Curtis helped found the Second Church of Christ Congregational. Subsequent owners, H.M. Parsons (1894) and Joseph Welch (1912 map) continued to use the structure as a residence. It continues to serve the private sector today.

Sources: Historic Buildings of Massachusetts, edited by John C. Poppeliers. Scribner Historic Building Series. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. Photographic catalogue of historic buildings, built primarily during the colonial and federal periods.

Inventory Form, Massachusetts Historical Commission, August 1987.